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J.

Roxbury, March 1, 1874.

Dear Johnson:

Frank Las just brought me your letter from the Post-Office. The inquiries contained in it I will now answer, but very briefly.

1. No attempt was made to procure subscribers to the Liberator until the first number was issued as a specimen number, although we, (Knapp and I) had made a few friends, previously, who readily ordered the paper.

2. Neither Knapp nor I had any pecuniary means at that time to pay for paper or printing, but only our hands to rely upon at type setting, &c. We could not even pay for the white paper upon which to print the first number, and tried to get credit of Deacon Moses Grant to the ex-

ten or five reams; but he declined doing so, not so much as distrusting ultimate payment by us, as deeming the Liberator an injurious if not an incendiary sheet, and therefore not deserving of encouragement, in consequence of its demand for immediate and unconditional Emancipation, and its determined opposition to the American Colonization Society. Personally, he knew and respected us both, and had previously been consulted as to starting the Liberator. I believe his firm was styled "Grant and Daniels". Knapp procured the paper from another paper firm, to whom we were utterly strange, but who were willing to run the pecuniary risk to the small extent asked. I have forgotten the names of the firm; but it was on such a contingency that we succeeded in issuing our first number! K. and I

were boarding at the time at Rev. William Collyer's, in Federal Street; and having an acquaintance and friend in a printer of our own age, named Stephen Foster, who was then the foreman of a large printing-office in Water Street, I think — in which the Christian Examiner and other Unitarian publications were printed, and who enthusiastically espoused our object, we made an arrangement with him to print the first three numbers of the Liberator in his office, we paying for the same in journey-work at the case. But for him, no Liberator could have been printed at that time. Was ever a gigantic reform planted under apparently more feeble or more hopeless circumstances? I now stand amazed as I recall them. Yet, somehow, K. and I were as confident, undaunted and resolved, as though we had ample deposits in the

U. S. Bank. From the beginning to the close of our partnership, he had the management of the finances (making all contracts with the paper-makers, and seeing all liabilities discharged) and found in such friends as Mr. Lovell, Mr. Loring, and others, for the first year, those who kindly loaned or contributed money to help us along. In this respect, particularly, he was essential to the success of our undertaking, and deserves honorable remembrance. He never flinched, and never once grew disheartened.

3. We at first hired a small upper room in Merchants' Hall, (No. 6) where we slept with our bed on the floor, and found our own provender, so as to save the expense of regular board; but soon exchanged it for a larger room under the eaves, where, having procured a small second-hand font of types and a

Lord printing-press, on credit, of Greeley and Fillis, we continued for a long time to do nearly all the type-setting, press-work, mailing, &c., of the Liberator, living in the manner described, chiefly upon bread and milk, a few cakes and a little fruit, obtained from a baker's shop opposite, and a pastry cake and fruit shop in the basement. We were sometimes on "Short Commons", even at that. I believe we thus lived for at least a year and a half.

Yours, Always,

W. L. G.

P.S. On receiving the first number of the Liberator, James Forten, the greatly esteemed and venerated Colored Sail-maker of Philadelphia, sent us 25 Subscribers and $50 in advance payment - most timely aid. — Send me any other inquiries you may desire to have answered. —

To Oliver Johnson.